

DOCUMENTATION OF THE RESTORATION PROJECT
FOR THE ACROPOLIS MONUMENTS.
CREATION OF A DATA BANK.

The Committee for the Preservation of the Acropolis Monuments, an interdisciplinary team of specialists operating within the framework of the Ministry of Culture, was founded by the Hellenic State in 1975, in order to cope with the critical condition of the Acropolis monuments.

From 1979 onward the Committee embarked upon a new restoration program concerning all the Acropolis Monuments: the Erechtheion project has already been completed. In this period conservation works are being carried out in the Parthenon and the Propylaea. A new restoration of the temple of Athena Nike is planned for the near future.

In these works special importance is attached to full documentation of the state of preservation of the monuments and the interventions in course as prescribed in art. 16 of the international Charter of Venice for the restoration of monuments. Besides, the meticulous documentation of the works assures, to a great degree, the reversibility of the operations a supplementary guideline put forward by the Acropolis Committee.

The documentation kept in the archives of the Committee consists of a huge number of records of various types, like plans and drawings, photographs, slides, inventory cards of the architectural elements of the buildings and of the "disiecta membra" of the site. There are also, films, videos and a systematic bibliography.

In 1987 the Acropolis Committee decided to computerize the records. The work was not to be limited merely to entering the material into a simple computerized inventory, but to create an integrated data base covering all types of documentation and involving the work of conservation and restoration carried out on Acropolis monuments at the present and in bygone years.

Given the huge number and variety of records, it is imperative to have a data base offering immediate access to any given piece of information or assemblages of information. At the same time an objective approach to the evidence — in many cases records of extremely specialized work — will be ensured, saving wear and tear on the original documents often damaged by too much handling.

The fields used in the data base under preparation fall into two basic categories. The first category pertains to the form of the document and varies according to its type. The second category of fields enables the user to consult

the data base to gain access to many different kinds of information about the subjects of the documents, for example, any part of any given monument; the inventory of its architectural elements; the characteristic features of the original construction and design; remains of later phases and evidence for later functions, and information about damages. Special weight is attached to recording the remains of earlier interventions and to the description of work going on at present: the type of intervention, the material, the methods, the names of those in charge, the chronology, criticism. The fields of the second category are common to all types of records, enabling thus the user to gain access to information relating to his special topic from every type of document stored in the files of the integrated data base.

The Erechtheion is the first conservation and restoration project to be completed. The photographic documentation of the intervention — consisting of 6,000 records — has been entered into the data base. Preparation has begun on the entering of information from the plans and drawings, work which will go ahead rapidly as the project is published. Another application already planned is a data base for the architectural elements of the monuments and the “*disiecta membra*” of the site, an application of immediate use which one hopes to begin in the near future.

For the creation of data base the software SIGMINI of the *École des Mines de Paris* and the *Union Minière* of Belgium is used. In the planning of the base the Acropolis Committee has collaborated with the *Centre de Recherche Archéologique et Systèmes d'Informations* of the University X, Paris.

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